

1 JARED L. KOPEL, State Bar No. 126817
jkopel@wsgr.com
2 LISA A. DAVIS, State Bar No. 179854
ldavis@wsgr.com
3 DOMINIQUE-CHANTALE ALEPIN, State Bar No. 241648
dalepin@wsgr.com
4 WILSON SONSINI GOODRICH & ROSATI
Professional Corporation
5 650 Page Mill Road
Palo Alto, CA 94304-1050
6 Tel: (650) 493-9300
Fax: (650) 565-5100

Attorneys for Plaintiffs

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION

NATIONAL LAWYERS' GUILD SAN
FRANCISCO CHAPTER, et al.,

No. C 08-5137 RS

Plaintiffs,

**JOINT STATUS REPORT AND
STIPULATION TO STAY
PROCEEDINGS; AND [PROPOSED]
ORDER**

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND
SECURITY, et al.,

Defendants.

WHEREAS, in an effort to narrow the issues before the Court,

1. The parties have entered into a series of stipulations to stay proceedings since April 24, 2009, to allow Defendants to conduct secondary searches and process potentially responsive records, and to allow the parties to confer in an effort to resolve Plaintiffs' claims without the Court's intervention. On October 30, 2009, as a result of those negotiations, Plaintiffs stipulated that they did not contest the adequacy of the searches performed by Defendants DHS, DHS-OIG, or CIS, or the propriety of the withholdings made by DHS-OIG; accordingly, pursuant to Rule 41(a)(1)(A)(ii), the parties filed a stipulation of dismissal of this action with prejudice with respect

1 to those Defendants. Negotiations continued with respect to the remaining Defendants: CBP,
 2 EOIR, and ICE. Most recently, on February 3, 2011, the Court approved the parties' stipulations
 3 (a) to further stay proceedings through and including March 31, 2011, and (b) to submit a joint
 4 report advising the Court on the status of negotiations and processing, and/or a stipulation proposing
 5 a schedule to govern further proceedings, no later than March 31, 2011; and

6 2. EOIR has provided Plaintiffs with a letter describing the scope of its search and a
 7 preliminary, partial Vaughn index explaining the bases for its withholdings. In response, Plaintiffs
 8 have stipulated that they do not contest either the adequacy of the search performed by EOIR, or
 9 the propriety of the withholdings made by EOIR; and

10 3. ICE has provided Plaintiffs with a letter describing the scope of its search and a
 11 preliminary, partial Vaughn index explaining the bases for its withholdings. In response, Plaintiffs
 12 have stipulated that they do not contest either the adequacy of the search performed by ICE, or
 13 the propriety of the withholdings made by ICE; and

14 4. CBP has provided Plaintiffs with a letter describing the scope of its search and a
 15 preliminary, partial Vaughn index explaining the bases for its withholdings; Plaintiffs have
 16 responded with several objections and/or requests for clarification; and the parties have continued
 17 to confer to discuss the scope of CBP's search and the propriety of its withholdings. Plaintiffs are
 18 not yet prepared to stipulate to the adequacy of CBP's search or the propriety of its withholdings;
 19 however, further negotiation may eliminate the need for judicial resolution of these issues. Since
 20 the last status report, CBP has provided Plaintiffs with a supplemental preliminary, partial Vaughn
 21 index explaining the bases for its withholdings of portions of additional documents released in late
 22 January 2011 following quality control checks, and the parties remain in communication regarding
 23 a possible solution concerning the small number of documents still in dispute. Most recently,
 24 Plaintiffs extended a counterproposal to CBP, which is under active consideration, and to which
 25 CBP has agreed to respond by April 5, 2011; and

26 WHEREAS it would minimize litigation costs and conserve judicial resources to stay
 27 further proceedings in this case to permit the above-mentioned negotiations to continue, and to
 28 permit the parties to confer further as described above;

1 IT IS HEREBY AGREED AND STIPULATED by and between the parties, through
2 undersigned counsel, subject to the approval of the Court, that:

3 1. Further proceedings in this case are stayed for a period of approximately 2 months
4 through and including May 31, 2011, and
5 2. No later than May 31, 2011, the parties shall submit a joint report advising the Court
6 on the status of the above-mentioned negotiations and/or a stipulation proposing a
7 schedule to govern further proceedings.

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1 Dated: March 31, 2011

2 Respectfully submitted,

3 /s/ Dominique-Chantale Alepin
4 JAYASHRI SRIKANTIAH
5 IMMIGRANTS' RIGHTS CLINIC
6 STANFORD LAW SCHOOL
7 559 Nathan Abbott Way
Stanford, CA 94305
Tel: (650) 724-2442
Fax: (650) 723-4426

8 LINTON JOAQUIN
9 KAREN TUMLIN
VIVEK MATTAL
NATIONAL IMMIGRATION
10 LAW CENTER
3435 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 2850
Los Angeles, CA 90010
Tel: (213) 639-3900
Fax: (213) 639-3911

11 JARED L. KOPEL
12 LISA A. DAVIS
DOMINIQUE-CHANTALE ALEPIN
13 WILSON SONSINI GOODRICH &
ROSATI
14 Professional Corporation
650 Page Mill Road
15 Palo Alto, CA 94304-1050
Tel: (650) 493-9300
16 Fax: (650) 565-5100

17 Attorneys for Plaintiffs

TONY WEST
Assistant Attorney General

JOHN R. TYLER
Assistant Branch Director

7 /s/ Eric B. Beckenhauer
ERIC B. BECKENHAUER, CSBN 237526
Trial Attorney
U.S. Department of Justice
Civil Division, Federal Programs Branch
20 Massachusetts Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20530
Telephone: (202) 514-3338
Facsimile: (202) 616-8470
E-mail: eric.beckenhauer@usdoj.gov

12 Attorneys for Defendants

SIGNATURE ATTESTATION

20 In accordance with General Order 45(X), I hereby attest that I have obtained
21 Eric B. Beckenhauer's concurrence in the filing of this document.

22 /s/ Dominique-Chantale Alepin
DOMINIQUE-CHANTALE ALEPIN

[PROPOSED] ORDER

25 Pursuant to stipulation, **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

26 Dated: 4/4/11

27 
28 RICHARD SEEBORG
United States District Judge